

Mayor's Advisory Committee On Accessibility
May 19, 4:00-6:00 pm
Human Resources Conference Room

MINUTES

Members Present: Ben Johnson, Cleary Buckley, Sam Handy, Ralph Montefusco, Shelly Waterman

Members Absent: Michael Watson, Elaine Zimmerman, Ron Redmond, Ned Holt

Others Present: Kesha Ram, Sandi Omanovic, Nate Besio, Martha Keenan, Jennifer Kaulius, Emma Allen

The meeting commenced at 4:10 pm.

Public Forum and Introductions

None.

10 Year Capital Plan, Martha Keenan

Martha Keenan presented the 10 year capital plan, which is mainly a general fund capital plan. Martha said that every building received an assessment along with parking garages, sidewalks, and streets. She showed that roads and sidewalks have largest needs in the capital plan. The plan works on maintaining assets and resources rather than on building new ones because maintenance is more cost-effective than new construction if done in a timely manner. The City Council is looking for input to the 10 year capital plan by May 28. After the presentation, the committee acknowledged that they received the information and that any concerns will be presented by the deadline

Committee Reorganization

Committee members started by discussing attendance. A suggestion that was strongly considered would be to telephone into the committee meeting if a committee member is unable to attend the meeting that day.

Another issue to address was responding to businesses who wanted informal feedback on accessibility. The committee agreed to create a preamble for a business approach that would make clear that the committee is an advisory committee and that nothing the committee advises is binding.

The committee has discussed recreating past subcommittees to better tackle specific issues. Kesha drafted a list of the old subcommittees. The subcommittees would be divided into a City/District committee, which focuses its discussion around schools; a public infrastructure committee, which holds city and parks and businesses accountable for accessible infrastructure; a programming committee, which focuses on how to make city events and programs more accessible; and a communication/ outreach committee, which raises awareness on accessibility issues and of the committee itself. The committee agreed to the subcommittees.

Sam asked how the committee should follow up with speakers. He urged the committee to develop a standard for following up with presenters. Some suggestions would be to have a member of the subcommittee stay in contact with the presenter in case any other questions come up and to make sure the committee's suggestions are being heard.

Kesha also presented the 2013 Strategy and Plan that was created by the committee to guide their work. While it was rejected by the City Council due to budgeting, several items that the committee thought needed to be addressed were already being addressed. Two items the committee thought were important were the training of city employees and a greater collaboration with the District.

ADA 25th Anniversary Event

Jennifer and Emma led a discussion of the suggestions for locations and dates for the ADA 25th Anniversary Celebration. Emma was going to check about park locations and ideal dates. Ralph suggested having food at the event. Kesha and Sam agreed to follow up on food donations.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.